

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A communication link protocol for communicating between nodes of an interconnect system via communication links, the communication link protocol comprising:

a direct memory access (DMA) write command for ~~writing~~ performing an inter-node DMA transfer of a block of data from a local node to a remote node via one of the communication links;

an administrative write command for writing data from a local node to registers in a remote node via one of the communication links for administrative purposes;

a memory copy write command for writing an entire line of memory from a local node to a remote node via one of the communication links when a new data is written into the line of memory even when the new data is smaller than the line of memory; and

a built in self test (BIST) command for testing the functionality of one of the communication links.

Claim 2 (original): The communication link protocol of Claim 1 wherein each command is conveyed between a local node and a remote node in the form of a respective command packet.

Claim 3 (original): The communication link protocol of Claim 2 wherein each respective command packet carries information for at least one command flag.

Claim 4 to 9 (canceled).

Claim 10 (currently amended): The communication link protocol of Claim 1, wherein said ~~writing~~ performing an inter-node DMA transfer of a block of data from a local node to a remote node comprises copying the block of data from a local memory of the local node to a remote memory of the remote node.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The communication link protocol of Claim 1, wherein said ~~writing~~ performing an inter-node DMA transfer of a block of data from a local node to a remote node comprises computing parity over multiple blocks of data from a local memory of the local node and writing the parity to a remote memory of the remote node in a single operation.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The communication link protocol of Claim 1, wherein said writing ~~[[a]]~~ an entire line of memory from a local node to a remote node comprises reading existing data from the line of memory in a local memory of the local node, merging the new data with the existing data so the new data replaces some existing data while other existing data remains, and writing merged data to a corresponding line of memory in a remote memory of the remote node.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The communication link protocol of Claim 12, wherein said writing ~~[[a]]~~ an entire line of memory from a local node to a remote node comprises the writing the line of memory to a remote node using a same address offset of the line of memory at the local node.